

Shipping—Steamers.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,

BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR

STEAMERS

TO SAIL

NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, "KLEIST" WEDNESDAY,
GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, Capt. Rud Meyer 4 P.M., 26th Feb., 1908.
ANTWERP and HAMBURG [15]MANILA, NEW GUINEA, BRIS-
BANE, SYDNEY and MEL- "PRINZ SIGISMUND" TUESDAY,
BOURNE Capt. v. Binner 5 P.M., 3rd Mar., 1908.SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE "PRINZ LUDWIG" About TUESDAY,
and YOKOHAMA Capt. v. Binner 3rd Mar., 1908.KUDAT and SANDAKAN "BORNEO" Middle of March.
Capt. F. Sembil [15]

For further Particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

MELCHERS & CO.,

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1908. [15]

**WEST RIVER BRITISH STEAMSHIP
COMPANIES.**

HONGKONG-WUCHOW LINE.

THE Steamers "LINTAN" and "SAN-UU"
SAIL FROM HONGKONG TWICE A WEEK AND COMPLETE THE ROUND TRIP IN 6 DAYS.
These steamers have Excellent Saloon Accommodation, and are Lighted Throughout by Electricity.THE CLIMATE ON THE WEST RIVER DURING THE WINTER MONTHS IS
VERY FINE AND EXHILARATING.For further information apply to— BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
AGENTS,

WEST RIVER BRITISH S.S. COMPANIES. [17]

**REGULAR HONGKONG-CANTON LINE OF
STEAMERS**

OF THE

COMPAGNIE FRANCAISE DES INDIES ET DE L'EXTREME ORIENT.

S.S. "PAUL BEAU," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.
S.S. "CHARLES HARDOUIN," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.The speediest, most luxuriously appointed and punctual steamers on the line.
Departure from Hongkong at 9.30 P.M. (Saturdays excepted).
Departure from Canton at 5.30 P.M. (Sundays excepted).These superb steamers carrying the French Mail are fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fans and were specially built for this trade. Excellent cuisine.
The Company's Wharf is at the end of Wing Lok Street (Tram Station).
Canton Agents—Messrs. E. Pasquet & Co.For further particulars, please apply to— BARRETTO & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 5th April, 1907. [18]

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.
REGULAR THREE-WEEKLY SERVICE
BETWEEN
JAVA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.

Steamer	From	Expected on or about	Will leave for	On or about
TJI PANAS ...	JAVA	Second half Feb.	JAPAN	Second half Feb.
TJI KINI	JAVA	Second half Feb.	JAPAN	Second half Feb.
TJI LIWONG	JAPAN	Second half Feb.	JAVA	Second half Feb.
TJI MAHI	JAVA	Second half Feb.	JAVA	First half Mar.
TJI BODAS	JAVA	First half Mar.	JAPAN	First half Mar.
TJI LATJAP...	JAVA	Second half Mar.	JAVA	Second half Mar.

The Steamers are all fitted throughout with Electric Light and have Accommodation for a limited number of Saloon Passengers, and will take Cargo to all Netherland Indie Ports on through Bills of Lading.

For Particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.Telephone No. 375,
YORK BUILDINGS, 1st floor,
Hongkong, 13th February, 1908. [19]

Dentistry.

TSIN TING.

LATEST METHODS OF DENTISTRY.
STUDIO AT NO. 14, D'AGUILAR STREET.
REASONABLE FEES.

DR. M. H. CHAUN,

THE LATEST METHOD
OF THE
AMERICAN SYSTEM OF DENTISTRY
35, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,
From the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Hongkong, 16th April, 1908. [19]

Intimations.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., LTD.

NO. 1 DOCK.

Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 95 ft.; bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.

NO. 2 DOCK.

Length inside, 375 ft. Width of entrance, top 60.5 ft. bottom 45.8 ft. Water on blocks, 30.5 ft. Time to pump out, 3 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand, (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyds surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Tugboats are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 35 tons.

Steam Launches of Steel or Wood, Lighters, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work, and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranteed.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos. 376, 506, or 681.

Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codes A. B. C. 4th and 5th Edt.

Liebers, Scotts, A. I., and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1905. [19]

IMPERIAL BREWING COMPANY,
LIMITED.

PURE CREAM BEER.

For samples and prices please apply to

WINE GROWERS SUPPLY CO.

BARRETTO & CO.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 22nd October, 1907. [14]

THE PHILIPPINES CARNIVAL.

February 27th to March 3rd.

SPECIAL STEAMERS. SPECIAL RATES.

A SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE AN

EXCURSION TO MANILA

AND SPEND

A WEEK OF GAIETY.

A WEEK OF FUN.

A WEEK OF SPORTS.

GORGEIOUS PROCESSIONS.

MAGNIFICENT PAGEANTRY.

MASKED BALLS.

Return Trip from Hongkong to Manila

\$50.00.

A great inducement to Hongkong residents to patronise this important event, besides enjoying a holiday of reasonable length, Messrs. Shaw, Tomes & Co. have decided to despatch their steamer ZAFIRO for a special Carnival trip, leaving Hongkong at 4 P.M. on the afternoon of SATURDAY, the 23rd FEBRUARY. The ZAFIRO will reach Manila on Tuesday morning, and in order that the full round of festivities may be enjoyed they shall not despatch the steamer from Manila until 2 A.M. on the morning of Tuesday, the 3rd March. She will reach Hongkong again at daylight on Thursday, the 5th March.

The Passengers, should they so desire, may make arrangements to remain on board during steamer's stay in Manila.

Special arrangements have also been made by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., and

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire.

Hongkong, 17th February, 1908. [19]

DIVING BELL UNION.

ENGLISH COUPLE ACCEPT MAHOMETANISM.

The arrangements for the celebration of the Mahometan wedding in a diving bell before a London Hippodrome audience are being completed, telegraphed a Liverpool correspondent. Satisfied that all the conditions of the Islamic faith are being complied with, Sheikh Quilliam, of Liverpool, the head of the Musulmans in the British Isles, is now ready to marry the couple under circumstances unique in the history of wedding ceremonies in this country. Those who marry under the Islamic law have first to make a declaration, and this Sheikh Quilliam is now in possession of.

THE BRIDEGROOM.

The prospective bridegroom is, as we have already stated, William Henry Satl, of Goodge-st, London, W. He is described as a war correspondent for a French paper, and gives his age as 26. Fashid-ud-Din, meaning "delight of the faith," is the Islamic name he has adopted.

The young lady who is willing to marry in a diving bell is Sybil Athelstan-Smith, of May Lodge, Bexley-hill, Kent. She has assumed the Islamic name of Sandeta, which means "the happy one."

In their declaration, which reached Sheikh Quilliam yesterday, (22nd January), they say they accept the faith of Islam to be the one and only true religion, "believing, as we do, that there is no God but Allah, the true One, and that Mahomet (every blessing be upon him) is the inspired messenger and prophet."

The declaration is in Arabic and English, and is witnessed by three Mussulmans.

OFFICIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Notices of the wedding have been placed with a registry office, in London, and as the Sheikh is convinced that the young couple are in earnest, he is ready to fulfil his part of the ceremony.

When he enters the diving bell he will be wearing a white robe of the finest lawn, interwoven with real gold threads. On his head he will have a fez and turban. In the centre of the latter is a magnificent brooch, consisting of 65 diamonds and pearls, worked so as to form the word "Salam," meaning Peace.

"LANCET" LIBEL SUIT.

VERDICT FOR PLAINTIFF WITH £1,000
DAMAGES.

The action in which Mr. Augustus Quackenbush Tucker, of Herne-hill, claimed damages against the "Lancet" for comments in that journal upon the specific for the cure of asthma, avenged by his brother, was concluded on 20th ult., the jury finding in favour of the plaintiff, with £1,000 damages. A stay of execution was granted.

The case was heard before Mr. Justice Ridley. The plaintiff's complaint was that the "Lancet" described the asthma inhaler specific as a quick remedy. The defendant pleaded that the words complained of were fair comment.

Mr. Elton Banks, K.C. (for the defence), called Mr. John A. Barrett, an English barrister, and also a member of the New York Bar and of the Supreme Court of the United States. Witness said he had been asked to familiarise himself with the law in the State of Massachusetts with regard to the sale of proprietary medicines containing cocaine.

INADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE.

Mr. Duke, K.C. (for plaintiff), contended that such evidence was inadmissible. It was impossible to make the law of Massachusetts relative in this case.

Mr. Banks: Our case is that the specific containing these poisons is dangerous.

Mr. Justice Ridley: That won't help you if that is all, you lost your verdict.

Mr. Banks: It is an element in the case. I submit this evidence as to the law of a State on that particular point is relative.

His Lordship: I don't think it is.

Mr. Banks, in addressing the jury, referred to the inquest held by Dr. Waldo on the man Cushing, which had inspired the article objected to. "The question for the jury to decide was whether the writer was justified in stating that the view which Dr. Waldo expressed was correct."

Counsel appealed to the jury not to give the plaintiff such damages as would be one of the finest advertisements to him, unless they were convinced that the plaintiff's system of trading was a fair one.

PROFESSIONAL TESTIMONY.

Mr. Duke, replying for the plaintiff, asked how it could be claimed that the remedy was fraudulent when so many people had come forward to testify to its efficacy.

Counsel also referred to the three hundred members of the medical profession who supported the use of the specific. The reason why nobody was produced who had been either poisoned or hurt through its use was because nobody had been poisoned or hurt.

The jury, as stated, found for the plaintiff, with £1,000 damages.

SWATOW DRAWN WORK COMPANY.

38, WELLINGTON STREET,

Dealers in all kind of
HAND-MADE DRAWN CHINESE
LINEN, GRASS CLOTH, &c.,
all of the best quality;

ALSO

SWATOW BEST PEWTER-WARE,
CANTON EMBROIDERY and CHINESE
LACE,

all from the best French pattern.

HONGKONG AND SWATOW,

Hongkong, 15th October, 1907. [19]

[19]

Notices of Firms.

HONGKONG AND CHINA GAS CO.

M. J. McCULLIN is appointed ACTING
LOCAL SECRETARY during
absence on leave of Mr. GEORGE C.
JARDINE, MATHESON &
Local Agents.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1908.

INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING
andEXPRESS TRAINS
(THE
GREAT TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY
TO EUROPE.)

[19]

HAVING been appointed AGENTS for
the above Company, we shall be
pleased to give any information as to rates of
passage, &c., in connection with above.

SHewan, Tomes & Co.

Agents.

Hongkong, 31st July, 1907. [17]

To Let.

TO LET.

OFFICES and ROOMS on the 1st and 2nd
Floors of No. 14 Des Vaux Road
Central (formerly occupied by Messrs. Shawan,
Tomes & Co.)

Apply to—

THE COMPRADORE DEPARTMENT,
Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.,
Connaught Road Central,
Hongkong, 24th February, 1908. [18]

TO LET.

Shipping—Steamers.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,

BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, "KLEIST"		WEDNESDAY,
GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, Capt. Rud Meyer.....		4 P.M., 26th Feb., 1908.
ANTWERP and HAMBURG		
MANILA, NEWGUINEA, BRIS-	"PRINZ SIGISMUND"	TUESDAY,
BANE, SYDNEY, and MEL.	Capt. v. Bider	5 P.M., 3rd Mar., 1908.
BOURNE.....		
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, "PRINZ LUDWIG"	About TUESDAY,	
and YOKOHAMA	Capt. v. Bider	3rd Mar., 1908.
KUDAT and SANDAKAN.....	"BORNEO" Capt. F. Semill	Middle of March.

For further Particulars, apply to.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,
MELCHERS & CO.,

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1908.

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Liebers, Scotts, A. I., and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1908.

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The case, which was heard before Mr. Justice Ridley. The plaintiff's complaint was that the "Lancet" described the asthma inhaler specific as a quack remedy. The defendant pleaded that the words complained of were fair comment.

Mr. Eldon Banke, K.C. (for the defence), called Mr. John A. Barrett, an English barrister, and also a member of the New York Bar and of the Supreme Court of the United States. Witness said he had been asked to familiarise himself with the law in the State of Massachusetts with regard to the sale of proprietary medicines containing cocaine.

INADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE.

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Mr. Justice Ridley: We know what the Pharmacy Acts are here.

Mr. Banke: Our case is that the specific containing these poisons is dangerous.

Mr. Justice Ridley: That won't help you if that is all, you lost your verdict.

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38, WELLINGTON STREET.

Dealers in all kind of HAND-MADE DRAWN CHINESE LINEN, GRASS CLOTH, &c., all of the best quality.

ALSO

SWATOW BEST PEWTER-WARE, CANTON EMBROIDERY and CHINESE LACES,

all from the best French pattern.

HONGKONG AND SWATOW.

Hongkong, 10th October, 1907.

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

HONGKONG AND CHINA GAS CO.

M. R. J. McCULLIN is appointed ACTING LOCAL SECRETARY in absence on leave of Mr. GEORGE C. JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., Local Agents, Hongkong, 22nd February, 1908.

INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING

and

EXPRESS TRAINS

(THE

GREAT TRANS-SIBERIAN ROAD TO EUROPE.

TO LET.

TO LET.

OFFICES

AND ROOMS on the 1st and 2nd

Floors of No. 14, Des Vaux Road

Central (formerly occupied by Messrs. Shawan,

Tomes & Co.).

Apply to—

THE COMPRODOR DEPARTMENT,

Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.,

Connaught Road Central, Hongkong, 24th February, 1908.

TO LET.

NO. 4, 6, 8, LEIGHTON HILL

ROAD.

Apply to—

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON LAND AND LOAN CO. LTD.

No. 8, Queen's Road West, Hongkong, 14th January, 1908.

TO LET.

SIX-ROOMED HOUSE on Robleson

Road.

Apply to—

X" C/o Hongkong Telegraph.

Hongkong, 10th February, 1908.

TO LET.

A HOUSE in KNUTSFORD TERRACE,

Kowloon.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 1st February, 1908.

TO LET.

OFFICES on TOP FLOOR, NO. 2, CONNAUGHT ROAD, facing the Cricket Ground.

No. 10, DES VEAUX ROAD CENTRAL, 1st Floor.

HATHERLEIGH Conduit Road.

A HOUSE in CLIFTON GARDENS, Conduit Road.

OFFICES in YORK BUILDING.

GODOWNS in PRAYA EAST, BLUE BUILDINGS, and NO. 168, DES VEAUX ROAD next to the Hongkong Hotel.

FLATS in MORETON TERRACE.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO. LTD.

Hongkong, 6th February, 1908.

TO LET.

NO. 5, MORRISON HILL.

ONE FOUR-ROOMED HOUSE at PRAYA EAST, near East Point.

Apply to—

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 10th October, 1907.

TO LET.

4-ROOMED HOUSES in GAP ROAD near

the Race Course within easy access to the Lower Level Tramway. Rent very moderate.

FLATS for Europeans in WILD DELL BUILDINGS, No. 147, Wan Chai Road.

Apply to—

PERCY SMITH & SETH,

Hongkong, 16th December, 1907.

TO LET.

GODOWN No. 3, NEW PRAYA, Kennedy Town.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 1st February, 1908.

TO LET.

HOUSES in AUSTIN AVENUE, Kowloon.

Apply to—

E. O. SASOON & CO., Comptorade Department.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1908.

TO LET.

FAUST BREWING COMPANY, MILWAUKEE.

FRESH SUPPLIES

Intimations.

Intimation.

Powell's WHITE GOODS LINENS.

SHEETS:-

Plain, per pair,	
2 x 3 yds., \$12.50 to \$25.00	
2 1/2 x 3 1/2 yds., \$14.50 to \$30.00	
Hemstitched,-	
2 x 3 yds., \$18.50 to \$35.00	
2 1/2 x 3 1/2 yds., \$21.50 to \$45.00	

PILLOW CASES:-

Plain,-	
\$12.50 to \$37.50 per doz.	
Frilled,-	
\$2.75 to \$16.75 per pair	
Hemstitched,-	
\$2.75 to \$21.50 per pair	

TOWELS:-

Huckaback, Hemmed,	
\$5.75 to \$11.50 doz.	
Hemstitched,-	
\$6.00 to \$21.50 doz.	
Fringed,-	
\$6.75 to \$18.50 doz.	
Diaper and Damask Towels,-	
\$10.50 to \$27.50 doz.	

TABLE LINEN:-

2 x 2 Yds. from	\$6.75 each
2 x 2 1/2 "	8.50 "
2 x 3 "	10.50 "
2 x 3 1/2 "	10.75 "
2 x 3 "	12.50 "
2 x 3 1/2 "	15.00 "
2 x 4 "	15.00 "
2 x 4 1/2 "	16.50 "
2 x 5 "	19.50 "

Serviettes to match:

ALL LINEN
TABLING2 and 2 1/2 Yards by any Length
From \$1.25 per yard.

POWELL'S
ALEXANDRA
BUILDINGS,
DES VŒUX ROAD,
and
28, QUEEN'S ROAD,
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 11th February, 1908.

Public Companies

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that the NINETEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Company's Office, Victoria Building, on TUESDAY, the 25th February, 1908, at 1.45 P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The REGISTER or SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from TUESDAY, the 1st February, to TUESDAY, the 25th February (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered, by Order of the Board of Directors.

A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary to the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.
Agents for the Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1908.

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HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE EIGHTY-THIRD ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in this Company, will be held at the Office of the Company, Hotel Mansions, on TUESDAY, the 25th February, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, together with a Statement of Accounts, declaring a Dividend, confirming the appointment of a Director, and electing Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 12th to the 25th February, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
W. E. CLARKE,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 4th February, 1908.

[190]

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the General Managers at 11.30 A.M., on MONDAY, 2nd March, to receive a Statement of the Company's Accounts to 31st December, 1907, and the Report of the General Managers.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 24th instant to the 2nd proximo, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., General Managers.
Hongkong, 19th February, 1908.

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THE HONGKONG MILLING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE THIRD ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Company's Offices, King's Buildings, at 12 o'clock Noon, on SATURDAY, the 7th March, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors and the Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1907.

A. H. RENNIE & CO., General Managers.
Hongkong, 20th February, 1908.

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HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE THIRTY-NINTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the Undersigned at 12.30 P.M. on TUESDAY, the 10th March.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 25th inst. to the 10th proximo, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., General Managers,
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1908.

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OPEN CYCLE RACE.

FIRST PRIZE:

New Humber Bicycles.

SECOND PRIZE:

Pair Dunlop Tyres.

THIRD PRIZE:

Pair of Inner Tubes,
one Bell and one Lamp.

ALL PRIZES PRESENTED

BY
THE DRAGON CYCLE COMPANY.

The Scratch Road-race for the above prizes will take place on CHINESE NEW YEAR DAY, over a course to be announced later.

ENTRANCE FEE

ENTRIES CLOSE ON JANUARY 31, WITH

THE DRAGON CYCLE CO.,
11, D'ADMIRAL STREET.

Hongkong, 16th January, 1908.

COMMERCIAL

FREIGHT MARKET

Messrs. Lamko and Regge report in their fortnightly circular of 2nd inst. — the freight market still exhibits little change of any kind, the amount of business transacted during the fortnight is about equal to that of the preceding period, but rates of freight have remained stationary in all directions except from Saigon to Philippine ports, where closing quotation stands a shade higher than of late.

Saigon to Hongkong: Inquiries for tonnage have continued until a few days ago, when a slight reaction set in, occasioned by lower grain prices locally. The stoppage is, however, not expected to be of long duration. Rates, as far as local settlements are concerned, have, whilst the demand lasted, varied from 16 to 18 cents, according to size and dates. For some inexplicable reason a Shanghai-controlled boat is reported to have been satisfied with 14 cents only.

From Saigon to Philippines further chartering orders have reached the market and higher rates than, recently obtained, have been successfully held for in several instances. Business has come off at 27 and 28 cents, and on basis of latter rate there are said to be further negotiations. From Phanrang to Manila, a steamer has been chartered to carry cattle.

No chartering appears to have been done from Saigon to other destinations, although a slight demand for Java was temporarily in the market.

Bangkok advises have it that large contracts for Europe have to be worked off before export to Hongkong and Singapore will develop to any considerable degree.

Java business is absolutely a dead-letter. Several vessels, recently disengaged there, have had to proceed in ballast elsewhere to pick up employment.

There is no movement at all yet in connection with Northern freights, and it may not be until middle of March, that things will take a turn for the better.

Coal freights weak. Settlements are on record from Honay for Canton at \$1.80, Kuchinoza to Honay at \$1.75, Wakamatsu to Canton at \$1.90, and Moji to this port at \$1.50.

Time Charters.—A handy-sized Norwegian boat has found employment for a term of 4 months.

Sail Freights:—Nothing doing...

Sail Tonnage loading or to-load:—None.

Sail Tonnage Disengaged:—None.

Departure of Sailors:—None.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra-hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 25th inst., will be subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 29th inst., or they will not be recognized.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 25th inst., at 11 A.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 18th February, 1908.

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer

"DELHI"

FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out mark by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

This vessel brings on Cargo:—

From London, &c., ex S.S. China.

From Persian Gulf, ex B.I.S.N. and B. & P. S. N. Co.'s Steamers.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless

instructions are given to the contrary before 6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 27th inst., at 4 P.M., will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWITT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1908.

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INTIMATIONS.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

(CAPITAL PAID UP\$1,000,000.)

Loans on Mortgage of House Property, &c.

Goods received on Storage.

Advances made on Merchandise.

Loans made on the Provident System.

(Rates and Particulars on application).

THE OFFICE OF TRUSTEE EXECUTOR OF WILLS,

ATTORNEY, &c.

Undertaken and Executed.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, 2nd December, 1907.

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GREEN. ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

PORTLAND CEMENT.

In Casks of 375 lbs. net \$6.00 per Cask ex Factory.

In Bags of 250 lbs. net \$8.00 per Bag ex Factory.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, 3rd October, 1907.

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COLD STORAGE.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY LTD.

have now 40,000 Cubic feet of

COLD STORAGE available at FAST POINT STORES, will be Open at 10 A.M. and 4 P.M.

Daily Sunday excepted, to receive & deliver</div

Intimation.

**A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.**

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

**CHEMISTS,
BY APPOINTMENT TO
HIS EXCELLENCE THE GOVERNOR
AND HOUSEHOLD.**

**DEPOT FOR
THE FINE PRODUCTS
OF
BURROUGHS WELLWOME & CO.,
LONDON.**

**TABLOID BRAND PRODUCTS.
SOLOID BRAND PRODUCTS.
KEPLER MALT EXTRACT.
KEPLER SOLUTION OF COD LIVER
OIL IN MALT EXTRACT.
BEEF AND IRON WINE (H.W. & Co.)
DARTRING LANOLINE PREPARA-
TIONS.
HAZELINE, "HAZELINE CREAM,"
"HAZELINE SNOW," &c., &c., &c.
TABLOID MEDICINE CHESTS, AND
POCKET MEDICINE CASES.**

The Fine Products of BURROUGHS WELLWOME & CO. are prescribed by leading Physicians all over the World.

**A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.**

**CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.**

Hongkong, 15th February, 1908.

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NOTICE.
All communications intended for publication in "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" should be addressed to The Editor, 1, Ice House Road, and should be accompanied by the writer's Name and Address.

Ordinary business communications should be addressed to The Manager.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS. nor to return any contributions.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (IN ADVANCE).

DAILY—\$10 per annum.

WEEKLY—\$13 per annum.

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Single Copies, Daily, ten cents; Weekly, twenty-five cents.

BIRTHS.

On January 26, 1908, at Elmwood, Whalley Range, Manchester, the wife of Lieutenant H. MORLAND, Royal Indian Marine, of a son.

On February 9, 1908, at Weihaiwei, the wife of J. A. W. LOUREIRO, of a son (stillborn).

On February 17, 1908, at Shanghai, the wife of H. SPATHE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On February 16, 1908, at Shanghai, Rev. ERNEST FRANK SMITH, of the Baptist Missionary Society, Sianfu, Shensi, to MARY ELIZABETH BORST, only daughter of the late Rev. Frederick Borst, of London.

On February 16, 1908, at Shanghai, HERBERT STANLEY JENKINS, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Clifton, Bristol, England and English Baptist Mission, Sianfu, Shensi, North-China, to M. L. (DAISY) LOVERIDGE, late of Wu Cheng, Kiangsi, eldest daughter of Thos Loveridge, Esq., of Llandaff, S. Wales.

On February 18, 1908, at Shanghai, Captain EDWIN L. MONCKMAN, C. N. Co.'s S. S. *Terminus*, to MARY (JANIE) BAIN, eldest daughter of J. B. Roach, Esq., Electricity Works, Shanghai.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1908.

THE "TATSU MARU."

The seizure of the Japanese steamer *Tatsu Maru* No. 2 for an alleged attempt to smuggle arms and ammunition into China while in territorial waters, the boundaries of which remain in doubt as to whether they appertain to Portugal or China, has been a very debatable subject between the three Governments concerned, those of China, Japan, as representing the owners of the vessel, and Portugal. A new phase in the development of negotiations has been reported to us from a source whose authority and reliability we have no reason to question. It will be remembered

that only recently the negotiations for the release of the vessel had been conducted between the Provincial Government of Canton and the Japanese Consul-General at that port, acting under instructions from the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Tokyo. But latterly the Portuguese Government at Macao instructed the Portuguese consul in the Southern capital to place himself in communication with the Japanese Consul-General, and the negotiations which ensued resulted in a joint representation being made by the two foreign Governments to the Viceroy of the two Kwangs. Now, we are led to understand, an entirely new aspect has been given to the affair, and it takes a mercantile character, involving the settlement of the matter by authorities other than the Imperial Government of China. The court before which the question will be brought will consist of representatives of the Imperial Maritime Customs and the Portuguese Government. This tribunal is provided by an Agreement concluded at Peking on the 1st of December, 1887, and signed by Senhor Bernardo Pinheiro Correa de Melo, Secretary of the Special Mission sent by the Government of Portugal, and Sir Robert Hart, as Inspector-General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. The Agreement is an appendix to the Luso-Chinese Treaty, signed on the same date. Article III stipulates that: "The Commissioner of Customs responsible for the management of the Customs Stations shall investigate and settle any complaint made by Chinese merchants of Macao against the Customs stations or revenue cruisers. The Governor of Macao, if he deems it advisable, shall be entitled to send an officer of Macao to be present and assist in the investigation and decision. If, however, they do not agree, a reference may be made to the authorities at Peking for a joint decision." On the 6th inst., immediately after the arrest of the *Tatsu Maru*, the manager of the firm of Kwong Wo & Co., licensed importers of the arms and ammunition, made formal application to the Governor of Macao, apprising him of the fact of the seizure and requesting that an investigation might be held, citing as his authority for such a court-of-inquiry Article III of the Agreement in question. We believe that the provisions of the Article having been brought to the notice of the Government of Canton, the Chinese and Portuguese are proceeding to hold such a joint investigation. We are informed that the representative of the Portuguese Government at this court has already been appointed, and that he is an official of the neighbouring Colony who is highly respected for his integrity and legal acumen. Such being the facts of the case, any friction that might possibly have arisen in connection with the transference of the negotiations to Peking will be obviated by the fact that the matter will be regarded as one of local complexion, to be adjudicated by local officials. And it is to the interest of both Governments that the same friendly relations which have hitherto been maintained, should continue and that the difficulties which at one time threatened to occur will be smoothed over, so that the release of the vessel may be effected at an early date, to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

* * * RUTHERFORD'S telegrams, Report of the Hongkong Dock Co.'s annual meeting, Canton Day by Day, report of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., and other items of local interest will be found on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

The South Manchuria Railway have inaugurated a land and sea connection between Kuang-chengtze and Chefoo.

The U.S. cruiser *Deliver*, 3,700 tons, Commander W. B. Caperton, arrived from Manila on Saturday afternoon. She leaves the U.S.S. *Wilmington* leaving for Manila to-morrow.

It is whispered that our popular puisne judge Mr. A. G. Wise is shortly to leave for home on a holiday, and that Mr. H. M. J. Gomperz, first police magistrate, will act at the Supreme Court until Mr. Wise returns.

RETURN of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 23rd February, 1908.—

Non-Chinese.....	398	203
Chinese	161	4,450
Total	559	4,653

CHUNG IU CHONG, a hawker, who arrived in the Colony from Canton, a few days ago, was charged at the Police Court, this morning, at the instance of a woman named Lun Tai Kum, of 6, Wing Wo Street, who accused him of demanding \$10 from her on Saturday night with menaces. She informed the magistrate (Mr. Gomperz) that accused, who is a stranger to her, called on her at about 9 p.m. on Saturday and demanded \$10 from her. She was much surprised at the order and called for an explanation. "I want \$10," she said, accused replied, "and you will have to pay it to keep my mouth closed. You've kidnapped a child from Canton and I know it. Give me the \$10 and nothing will be said. Refuse, and I'll take you back to Canton and have your head chopped off!" Complaint called in the police journal. The case was adjourned.

**THE SUPREME COURT
LONG VACATION.**

**CHIEF JUSTICE v. CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

**SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT'S STRONG
INDICTMENTS.**

The following very interesting supplementary correspondence, on the subject of the Supreme Court Long Vacation, dealt with in our columns on Friday last, was circulated to members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce at their meeting this afternoon:

Chamber,

8th February, 1908.

My dear Hewett.—My very earnestly beg you to reconsider your position in regard to the Law Society and the Vacation.

It has been saidly suggested that they have been influenced by me and have accepted the proposal in order to please me. Nothing is more ridiculous.

But the point I want you to weigh in your mind is this. The Law Society has been created by the solicitors themselves, in order that there may be some recognised body representative of the profession. The committee are elected by the whole body. Discipline is necessary in the ordinary affairs of life as in the Services; and it is subservient of all discipline if, directly a member of the profession does not like what the committee decide, he can get hold of a member of Council and reopen the whole question. It is not a question of hearing the other side; there is no other side after the question has been decided by the whole committee. It magnifies the rights (or wrongs) of the minority, and I would make work impossible. It is difficult enough to get people in the Colony to undertake work on Committees, but it seems to me that it will be a serious blow struck at such organizations as we have got if a mighty man can get round the decision of the committee. The case of your own Chamber is the same. Also

I dare say you will put this view of the case before your committee—Very sincerely yours,

F. T. PIGGOTT.

Hongkong, 10th February, 1908.

Dear Sir,—We understand that it has been proposed that the Long Vacation established by Ordinance No. 5 of 1898 shall be extended for a further period of one month. By that Ordinance it was enacted that the following vacations should be observed, viz.: the Long Vacation from 20th September to 17th October (27 days), Christmas Vacation 24th December to 1st January (8 days), Chinese New Year Vacation (5 days) and Easter Vacation (7 days) in all 47 days in the year. To this 47 days must be added 52 Saturdays and 52 Sundays, three race days—Whitmonday and the August Bank Holiday, Empire Day and King's Birthday. That is to say that on 365 days out of 365 the Courts are not sitting and another 33 days are now proposed to be added making 388 days or over half the year. We would submit that the proposed extension of the Long Vacation, or indeed a long vacation at all is not needed in Hongkong and further that it is harmful. It must be borne in mind that the vast majority of cases in our Courts are between Chinese who do not understand and never can be made to understand why lengthy vacations are necessary. They have been accustomed in the past to prompt settlements of their cases and if such prompt settlements are delayed, as they must be if the proposed extension of the vacation is carried through, they will lose confidence in our Courts.

Some of us can remember the time before the Vacation Ordinance of 1898 was passed. At that time the Courts worked year in and year out and there was no complaint from the judges, the bar, the solicitors or the litigants. It may be said that in England there is a Long Vacation lasting from the 1st August to the 12th October besides Christmas and Easter Vacations. This is perfectly true, but it must be remembered that the Judges in England do not get one year's leave in every 3 or 4 and that during the sittings they are infinitely harder worked than the Judges here. The same remark applies to the Bar.

The vacation is useless to us as solicitors as far as regards taking advantage of it by going away. There is also a certain amount of office work, Police Court, Summary Court and conveyancing work to be done and we must remain here to do it.

We therefore hope that the Chamber will express an adverse opinion to the proposed extension. Yours faithfully,

F. T. PIGGOTT, Chief Justice.

The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 2nd February, 1908.

Sir,—With reference to the letter addressed to you by myself and other solicitors concerning the proposed extension of vacation, I beg to inform you that at the time that the letter was written I and the other signatories to it were unaware of the fact that the matter had already been referred to and discussed by the members of the Committee of the Law Society, who, for reasons which appear to me and all other solicitors in the Colony to be fully adequate, had practically agreed to an extension of the vacation upon certain terms and had consequently justified the Chief Justice in his statement that the solicitors had approved of the proposed extension.

The reasons which influenced the committee in arriving at the conclusion which they did upon the matter were fully discussed at a meeting of the Law Society held last evening, at which nearly all the solicitors in the Colony were present. It was then pointed out that, while the necessity for a vacation of sufficient length to assure complete rest, and to restore vigour of mind and body, was apparent, at any rate so long as the Bench remained constituted as at present and so long as there exist but few leading Counsel in the Colony, the interests of solicitors and their clients could not suffer because of such a vacation.

So soon as it was heard that the question of extending the long vacation had been referred to my committee by the Government several members of the profession personally approached the committee, and a letter has been received, signed by 8 solicitors' firms representing half the firms in Hongkong. The committee, after carefully considering the question, came to the conclusion that it is neither in the public interest to enlarge the existing official list of holidays of the Supreme Court, nor that a good case has been made out by the advocates of this scheme.

The committee consider that the letter is ready referred to so clearly explains the objection against the suggested change, that His Excellency

has no right of audience being given to solicitors, if necessary, during the vacation.

I am, &c.,

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong Law Society.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1908.

In consequence of the reference to vaca-tions of the Supreme Court, which appeared under the above heading in the report of the general committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce for the year 1907, a meeting of the members of the Hongkong Law Society convened by the committee thereof, was held yesterday afternoon for the purpose of considering the alterations proposed by the Chief Justice in the vacations of the Supreme Court, which had already been considered by my committee. At such meeting certain resolutions were passed, which will be forwarded by my committee to your Chamber in due course.

I may add that the above meeting of which all the members of the Society had notice, was a thoroughly representative one and the resolutions may be taken to represent the views of all the solicitors practising in this Colony. I have, etc.

A. H. G. JACKSON,

Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 2nd February, 1908.

Sir,—I am instructed by my committee to inform you in reply to your letter of the 19th instant to its chairman that:

1. It is unable to admit that any such in-
duendo as you imagine is conveyed in the committee's minutes and in any case no in-
duendo was intended.

2. In your committee's opinion section 3 of your letter is erroneous and casts personalis-
ation on its chairman which my committee consider entirely undeserved. This introduction of personalis-
ation into the discussion of proposed extension of the vacations of the Supreme Court is the more regrettable when it may con-
sequently have been supposed that the convenience of the public and that of those im-
mediately concerned would have had unbiased attention.

3. My committee having been asked by His Excellency the Governor to state their views did so after due inquiry and is responsible for them and for the method of its inquiry only to the members of the Chamber.

4. Having since the receipt of your letter received one from the honorary secretary of the Law Society and another from a solicitor dated to-day (which are published in the supplementary appendix to the Chamber's report), my committee has nothing further to add. I have, etc.

E. A. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

His Ex. Sir Francis T. Piggott, Chief Justice.

QUARRELS OVER CHICKENS.

INDIAN WATCHMAN SEVERELY MAULED.

An Indian watchman—Sheer Mahomed—in the employ of Chan Ap King, was set upon and so severely attacked by a number of coolies on Friday afternoon as to necessitate his removal to hospital for treatment. The grievance between the watchman, who is engaged in looking after the Po Hing Tai godowns, and the godown coolies has been a long standing one and although many disputes have occurred of late no violence followed.

A month or two ago the watchman bought a few fowls which he turned loose in the yard behind the godowns. These fowls had a habit when a cargo of rice was being landed of entering the godown where the work was being carried on and helping themselves to what rice that lay scattered over the floor. Now and again a big fat hen would take it into her head to make a most painful noise when a coolie happened, by chance, to get in her way. This would bring in Sheer Mahomed, who would be

alleged to have informed a coolie a day or two later when one of his chickens was sent out on an aerial expedition from one of the godown yards and struck the opposite wall with a sickening thud in its descent, that if it happened again somebody's health would be impaired. The coolies complained that the fowls were interfering with their work and suggested that the watchman lock them up in the yard. This the watchman refused to do. On Friday afternoon the dispute was revived, during which the coolies seized hold of bamboo brooms and other weapons and beat the Indian into insensibility. Leaving the man to his fate the coolies took to their heels. The West Point police became aware of the occurrence soon afterwards and a hurried visit to the godown was made. The Indian, whose head was opened, was taken to hospital. A search for his assailants did not meet with any results until yesterday when the ringleader—the man who torched the watchman's head open with a cargo hook—was captured. On the way to the station he struck the policeman and succeeded after damaging two of the officer's fingers to secure his liberty for a while. He was chased for about a quarter of a mile and eventually stopped by an Indian policeman.

At the Police Court, this morning, accused was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour without the option of a fine for the assault on the watchman, and was also ordered to pay a fine of £10 for resisting the police.

HOME FOR THE POOR.

WANCHAI CONVENT.

We are requested by the Rev. Mother Superior, Italian Convent, to acknowledge the following generous donations to the funds for the reconstruction of the building at Wanchai for the "Home for the Poor":—

His Excellency the Governor.....\$100
Dr. G. M. Harston.....250
Mr. Ho Tang.....250
Mr. H. Dixson.....50
Messrs. Gilman & Co.....50
Mr. A. P. Marti.....50
Mr. H. J. Stevens.....5

A Charge Officer.

Telegram.**"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH"
SERVICE.**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MERCANTILE ENTHUSIASM
AROUSED.

A YEAR'S TRADE REVIEWED.

CAUSTIC LETTER FROM THE
CHIEF JUSTICE.

Seldom has the City Hall presented a more animated and brisk appearance than it did this afternoon when the annual general meeting of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce began at 4 o'clock. Practically every profession and commercial interest connected with the prosperity and renown of the Colony were congregated together, and it is safe to say that hardly one of those in whose hands rests the future well-being of the port as a trade centre and emporium for South China was absent on this occasion. The wealth, business genius, and acumen of the Colony were represented as they have seldom been assembled before, and it is needless to remark that the meeting from beginning to end, although strictly prosaic and matter-of-fact, was a commercial triumph. It is divulging no secret to add that the members of the Chamber had vague anticipations of an unusually lively scene; but they were disappointed to-day, although that is not to say the breeziness may only have been postponed to a later date. Those who can read between the lines will know to what we refer and those who are outside the counsels of the Chamber may rest content in the belief that their patience will be rewarded on some future occasion. A glance at the chairman's speech, however, may afford the clue to the situation, particularly in its concluding portion: The meeting was held for the following purposes, viz.—

1. To receive the report and account of the committee for the year ended 31st December, 1907.
2. To elect a new committee.
3. To consider the following resolution:—“That in consequence of the importance of the trade existing between this port and Bombay it is resolved under rule XXIII to increase the number of the committee from 9 to 10 so as to include a merchant interested in the Bombay, or trade.”

The Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewitt (chairman of the General Committee) occupied the chair, and there were present Mr. A. G. Wood (vice-chairman), Hon. Mr. H. Kewsey, Messrs. D. R. Law, G. H. Medhurst, A. Fuchs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, G. Fricasius (Committee), E. A. M. Williams (Secretary); Messrs. S. D. Seims, A. V. Appear, G. L. Tomlin, Ellis Kadootie, F. J. V. Juge, W. G. Humphreys, E. H. Hinds, A. Runjahn, Andrew Forbes, J. Plummer, W. E. Clarke, H. Fook, H. W. Looker, J. A. Jupp, M. P. Heattie, Murray Stewart, Frank Smyth, A. Shelton Hooper, Robt. Mitchell, J. V. Venon, H. N. Mody, A. J. Raymond, J. J. Leiria, B. Shelling, A. P. Murty, Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K. C. Messrs. W. C. Jack, S. H. Michael, Fung Wa Chun, Capt. J. T. Douglas, Messrs. H. P. White, J. Jebson, D. K. Seims, A. G. Gordon, D. W. Graddock, A. M. Essahoy, Chiu Siu Ki, C. Lafran, Duncan Clark, A. S. Conib, B. D. Kapteyn, T. Kusunoto, R. Henderson, Chan Kinck, S. Mowrie, W. L. Carter, T. F. Hough, L. Berinagaue, E. David, A. Bishop, J. Hectie, G. Marshall, Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, B. D. Tata, J. W. Holter, W. D. Graham, F. Takamichi, A. R. Lowe, J. Armstrong, C. H. Ross, F. D. Barretto, Nippon Yusen Kaisha, H. A. Shiras, W. Helms, C. Monique, E. A. C. Thiel, H. A. Slade, R. Hancock, G. C. Moxon, C. G. Gok, W. Melchers, A. C. Bittel, Jr., T. W. Hornby, W. Anderson, W. Pinckney, A. Kuehne, W. Malcolm Watson, W. (Mr.) C. R. Leiria, W. Allen (Sperry Flour Co.), D. Macdonald, S. Silverstone and A. Findlay Smith.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were confirmed.

The Chairman: The report and accounts were circulated to the members of the Chamber some days ago and, with your permission therefore I will take them as read. Before proposing their adoption I will as usual offer a few remarks on the more important questions which have engaged the attention of the Committee during the past twelve months.

Taking these more or less in the order in which they appear in the published correspondence now in your hands, the first matter of moment is that of the attempt, on the part of the Chinese Authorities at Nanking to establish what was virtually a monopoly in the sale of prepared opium.

The question of the proposed gradual extinction of the opium trade was referred to in my address last year when I considered it necessary to point out how careful a watch must be kept upon the Chinese Authorities in order to insure that, under the name of reform, they should not attempt to unduly favour their own trade in their drug, at the expense of the foreign article.

The movement in Nanking was a striking example of the methods which the Chinese would adopt to illegally hinder a trade which they

still great care should be exercised in order that the seal of experts should not lead to its undue application.

That this is sometimes done must be admitted and the Committee consider an instance of unnecessary alarm or over-caution; whatever it may be called, was displayed in imposing quarantine against Shanghai in September of last year on account of cholera in that port.

We fully realize that at times quarantine is necessary in order that greater evil be averted; but it must be borne in mind that quarantine imposes considerable sacrifices on those engaged in trade and should only be imposed when good grounds exist for such an extreme step being taken.

This brings me to a question which appears of late years not to have received sufficient consideration, namely, the need of a permanent quarantine station.

Since the total absorption of Stone Cutters Island by the War Department for defensive purposes, no area, so far as I am aware, has ever been set aside for a quarantine station. The result of this was that last summer, during the typhoon season, we saw the remarkable sight of a steamer anchored in the quarantine section of the harbour, surrounded by a fleet of junks in which were placed some hundreds of Chinese coolies who had arrived in a cholera-stricken vessel.

I need not point out in detail the many very serious objections, as well as grave dangers, which were raised by this method of dealing with an emergency. I merely take this as an opportunity of pointing out some isolated place, preferably on one of the smaller islands in the harbour, should be marked off for such a quarantine station. Ships could be prepared and when the need a temporary masts, could be erected for the reception of suspects at small cost of money and time. The place of the termination of the outbreak could be cleared and disinfected by fire...

Happily the need for such a site does not arise very often, but when it does we should be prepared to deal with the matter in an efficient and thorough manner.

During the period under review the Government has on more than one occasion addressed the Chamber on matters relating to proposed legislation for the better control of Companies registered in this Colony, and carrying on business either here or in the neighbouring Empire.

The Committee gladly welcomes this evidence on the part of the Government to keep a stricter watch on those Corporations engaged in business here, as owing to the transition state through which the trade in China is now passing too many opportunities are offering for the unscrupulous to take advantage of the ignorance which obtains in so large a part of China of Western business methods.

Cases unfortunately be cited where business has been carried on in China under cover of the protection of Foreign Governments on lines which are neither creditable to those concerned nor calculated to make trade easier for the upright merchant wishing to deal with the Chinese.

I now come to an old—I would say a valued friend—viz., the Currency question. This matter has been dealt with of late years almost ad nauseam, but still remains like a festering sore eating into the very vitals of our business with China.

The gentlemen who recently gave their services on the Committee appointed by His Excellency to consider this important question deserve the thanks of the community, and it is to be regretted that a greater unanimity of opinion was not arrived at which would have led to a more satisfactory conclusion to their labours. The diversity of views held after its full discussion emphasizes the difficulty of properly solving the question.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce as a body are practically in agreement with the minority report as drawn up by three of our colleagues, and we believe that this will on the whole command itself more favourably to the business section of this community, than the drastic measures suggested by the majority.

As you are all aware an influential and carefully chosen Commission is now sitting in London to consider a question which has the greatest possible influence on the shipping trade of the Empire, I should perhaps say rather on universal trade. I refer of course to the Royal Commission on Shipping Rates.

The Committee of this Chamber must of necessity include a large proportion of members directly interested in shipping, and feeling ourselves in a somewhat delicate position when asked by the Government and the Secretary of the Commission to reply to a series of questions propounded by the Commissioners, we considered it advisable to obtain a plebiscite on the subject.

The result is fully set forth in our replies dated 20th May 1907 which appear on pages 52 to 55 of the report. The result as a whole must I think be taken as favourable to shipping Conferences as worked in the Far East, for had these Conferences acted harshly or arbitrarily towards the merchants the complaints brought forward would have been more numerous than the three which alone were elicited by our inquiry.

The final report of the Commissioners is naturally awaited with considerable interest.

In my address last year I alluded to the handicap placed upon British shipping in certain branches of our passenger trade by existing regulations particularly with regard to the carrying of passengers of Asiatic birth and the coolie trade.

As you are aware the Imperial Government has altogether refused to grant us the relief asked for.

We can only suppose that the importance of the points raised has not been fully understood by His Majesty's Government or that other matters to them of greater importance have occupied their attention to the exclusion of those questions thus preventing them from carrying out what we consider a most necessary reform of the shipping laws of the Empire.

A further attempt will be made later to bring about these reforms.

Recent events have attracted attention to the need of improvement in the lighting of the approaches of the harbour, and in the harbour itself.

The report drawn up by the Committee appointed by us, however, has not yet been made public, but we understand that suggestions have been made which if carried out will go towards reducing the risk which now exists, under certain conditions, to vessels attempting to enter the harbour after dark.

There still remains a number of other interests for discussion to which reference might be made but I have already dealt with so many that it appears desirable to draw my remarks to a close.

Two important matters, the proposed new typhoon refuge, and the Kowloon Railway, must however be mentioned. The cost of both of these as we now learn greatly exceeds the original estimates but the pressing need for proceeding with the work in both instances as promptly as possible is fully apparent; and we believe just as fully realized by the Government.

In my last address I referred to the loss the Col my had sustained through the departure of H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan. We have now to record the arrival of his distinguished successor, H.E. Sir Frederick Lugard, who has already given evidence of the thoroughness with which he is mastering the details of the many questions relating to his new field of activity.

As regards the membership of the Chamber some changes have taken place during the past year, some of them I regret to say through death:

In the Committee itself changes have also taken place. Mr. Siebs I am sorry to say has been obliged to resign owing to failing health. I am sure all of us will agree in expressing our sincere and unsighed regret at this resignation, and for its cause. Mr. Siebs is believed to be the oldest member of our Committee and enjoys to the full the highest esteem of his fellow-residents who respect him as an able business man, and a courteous and upright gentleman. Another resignation is that of Mr. Haupt who is shortly leaving for home.

To both Mr. Siebs and Mr. Haupt the Chamber are indebted for much good work and the Committee are glad to place on record their appreciation of the valuable advice which has always been accorded by them, in their deliberations.

While regretting their departure we welcome their successors, Mr. Fuchs and Mr. Friesland, who are both well known to you and whose election to the Committee we trust meets with your approval.

After five years' work as Secretary Mr. A. R. Lowe has found himself, through pressure of other business engagements, compelled to place his resignation in the hands of the Committee.

Mr. E. A. M. Williams has been selected from among the many applications for the post as his successor, in appointment which the Committee confidently recommends to you for confirmation.

In conclusion, I would only remind you that this Colony in common with the East generally has recently passed through a period of great financial depression and anxiety. We believe, however, that we now see signs of a real improvement in trade and I trust that long before our next Annual Meeting is held we will see a revival of trade in all branches, and that we will fast forgetting the lean years recently experienced. (Loud Applause.)

This gentleman closes my address as prepared a few days ago. Since then another question which is referred to in our Report has been somewhat prominently brought before the Committee, viz., the question of the extension of the Long Vacation. The entire correspondence dealing with the motion has been printed and speaks for itself, and it does not appear to be necessary to add anything further on behalf of the Committee than what you now have before you. Since then I have received the following letter which I will now read:

Chambers,
Supreme Court, Hongkong,
24th February, 1908.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the reply of the Committee of the Chamber to my letter of 19th February on the subject of the minute of the Committee dealing with alteration of Vacations of the Court. The contents of the reply, and the fact that apparently the minute has been slightly modified since it was first printed compel me to trouble you with this further letter.

2. I am of course quite willing to believe that the innuendo contained in the minute was not intended; but innuendo is not a question of intention but of fact; and the fact that this minute does contain this innuendo, is apparent from the tone of all the leading articles in the newspapers which have been devoted to the subject.

3. The introduction of personalities in such a matter is, I agree most regrettable. But they have been addressed to me and to my action in the matter owing to the unfortunate form in which the minute was worded, and have caused me considerable annoyance. The facts which led to the change being made in the vacations were fully explained by me to you personally as Chairman of the Chamber; and in the face of my letter printed in the appendix of the report, of further letter to you which is not printed in the appendix, and of the fact of which I informed you that the alteration was made after consultation, and with the concurrence of the Committee of the Law Society, I can only repeat that “the facts which have led to the making of the Rule have not the faintest resemblance to what is the plain inference from the minute.”

4. I notice that the words in the minute as originally circulated to the members of the majority of the solicitors, have apparently been altered to “many of the solicitors,” for it is the form in which the minute is printed in the paper. It may be that this change was made as the result of my letter; but even in this modified form, the innuendo remains unchanged.

In this connection I find that in my letter of 20th January I said:

(Continued on page 5)

To-day's
AdvertisementsHONGKONG AND WHAMPoa DOCK
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

THE DIVIDEND of 8% per Share for the six months ending 31st December, 1907, declared at Monday's Ordinary Meeting, will be payable at the premises of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on and after TUESDAY, the 25th February, and shareholders are requested to apply for Dividend warrants at the Company's Office, Queen's Building, New Plaza.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

THOS. I. ROSE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1908.

EQUISIAS A S. M. EL REI D CARLOS I^o
A S. A. O PRINCIPE REAL

A COMISSAO nomeada para celebrar as solennes Exequias, rufando-as

almas de S. M. El Rei D. Carlos I^o e

A. o Principe Real, de saudea memoria,

d'acordo com o Exmo. Sr. Conselheiro

Consul Geral do Portugal, tem a honra de

convidar a Comunidade Portuguesa de

Hongkong para assistir a este acto religioso

no Sabado, 20 de fevereiro, as 8 horas da

manha, na Cathedral da Immaculada Con-

ceição.

Hongkong, 24 de Fevereiro de 1908.

J. J. LEIRIA,
Presidente da Comissão.

A. M. C. DA SILVA,
Secretario.

[24]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION,

FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED,

ON WEDNESDAY,

the 26th February, 1908, at 11 A.M., at their

Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Voeux Road,

corner of Ice House Street,

10 Cases BULL DOG ALE,

25 Cases COGNAC;

ALSO

A Quantity of SILVER WARE,

One GRAMOPHONE and RECORDS;

A Valuable Collection of POSTAGE STAMPS including Typhoon Editions from the Carolines and Foochow 2 cents halved (about 5,000 stamps in the Album).

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1908.

[24]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to Sell by PUBLIC AUCTION,

FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED,

ON THURSDAY,

the 27th February, 1908, at 2.30 P.M., at No. 1, Des Voeux Villas, Mount Kellet, Peak,

THE WHOLE OF THE VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

THEREIN CONTAINED,

(Particulars from Catalogue).

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1908.

[24]

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[Continued from page 5]

19th February I referred to the minute as containing the words "the leading solicitors," a lapsus calami induced by the fact that the "leading solicitors" would probably be included in the "majority of the solicitors," to which the minute refers; the greater including the less.

5. In view of the discussion which has taken place in the newspapers in consequence of this minute of the Committee, in which my action is placed before the public in the most unfavourable light when the facts do not in the least warrant it will of course be necessary to make my letter public; and I assume that you will, as I requested, lay it before the meeting of the Chamber this afternoon.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
F. T. PIGOTT,
Chief Justice.

I have not been favoured with a copy of the Supplementary Appendix to the Report referred to in para. 4 of the letter under reply.

The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

M.R.C.H. ROSS'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Ross, in rising to second the adoption of the report and accounts, said: I am sorry to say that I have not heard a single word of the Chairman's speech and I consider that a great many occupying the back benches are in the same position. However, we will read it in the newspapers and I will proceed to read what I had already written. Having read a portion of the chairman's speech I had this prepared.

Gentlemen,—I have listened, as I am sure you have also, with the greatest interest to the comprehensive resume by the Chairman of the matters which have been dealt with by the Chamber during the past year. Our Chambers of Commerce, and kindred Associations, have come to be regarded as the "watchdogs" of our trade—they form the medium of communication between those in authority and commercial communities, and it is to them, generally speaking, that we look to safeguard our commercial interests. (Applause.) It is always therefore a matter of supreme importance that those entrusted with the active management of these Chambers' affairs should be men of judgment and tact, and that they should be well versed in commercial details and in local customs and ways. Those of us who are acquainted with the inner working of our Chamber, know that the post of Chairman is by no means a sinecure, and it is one which at all times it is difficult to fill. It is a post of honour, and while no doubt in a community such as ours there may be many who possess ability for the position, yet it generally happens that those so qualified have neither the inclination nor the time to devote to its needs. Others again possess the inclination, but lack the ability. I think all of you, who have taken the trouble to digest the somewhat voluminous report of the matters dealt with by our Chamber, will agree with me that we are fortunate in having at our disposal the services of a Chairman who not only has the inclination and ability for such work, but who is also fortunate enough to be in a position to spare the time necessary to successfully carry it out. (Applause.) And I am sure, gentlemen, you will agree with me that we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Hewitt and also to the General Committee for their labour of the past year. (Applause.) Mr. Hewitt, in his very comprehensive speech, has touched on most of the important questions which have come before the Chamber during the period under review, by far the most important of which was the attempted Opium Monopoly at Nanking, by reason of its close association with the avowed intention of the Chinese Government to suppress the use of Opium throughout the Celestial Empire. The contemplated monopoly, thanks to the timely representations of the British Minister, died a sudden death, and I trust that the day may not be far distant when the eyes of the world may be opened to the obvious insincerity of the Chinese Government with regard to the proposed suppression of the consumption of opium in China. (Applause.) As the Chairman said in his letter of the 3rd September to the Colonial Secretary, it is possible that several of the leading High Officials in the Chinese Empire may be quite sincere in their desire to check the production and consumption of opium, but that the Chinese Government is equally sincere in this desire, I do not believe, and I regard its avowed intention to put an end to the cultivation of the poppy as a deliberate attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the Foreign Governments concerned in this trade.

In our own countries, we also have certain well-meaning enthusiasts who think they can abolish vice by law, but I do not think any have yet gone so far as to propose or imagine that the consumption of strong liquors in Western Countries could be suppressed in a decade. If this be so, few I would ask can it be possible for a weakly-governed country like China to hope to stamp out her besetting vice in this short space of time? We are told by those who profess to know, that the opium habit is the curse of Eastern races and of the Chinese in particular. All I can say, gentlemen, is, that I have lived a good many years in the East and in the Far East, over which I have wandered from Port to Port, also in the interior, and my impression is that opium is not one-hundredth part such a curse in the East as strong drink is in the West. (Applause) Take away opium from the Chinese, and he will inevitably turn to strong drink. With opium as his vice, the Chinaman is a peaceful and law-abiding being, but I wonder much whether his character might not alter materially if he drank cheap whisky instead of smoking opium. (Applause.) This is a point to which the present Manchu Rulers of China might well give careful thought and study, if perchance they are sincere in their avowed desire. Other very important matters such as "Private Mooring Buoys in the Harbour," and the "Lighthouses of the Harbour," seem to be fully dealt with in the Report. In your

possession, and as I understand there are others wishing to speak on certain matters, I will not longer trespass on your time. I have much pleasure, Sir, in seconding the adoption of this annual report and accounts. (Applause.)

Mr. H. P. White:—I have great pleasure in proposing the re-election of the outgoing Committee—the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewitt, the Hon.

Mr. Henry Kerwick, Messrs. G. Friesland, D. R. Law, G. H. Medhurst, A. Fuchs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins and A. G. Wood. These gentlemen enjoy the confidence of the Chamber and I trust that you will see your way to re-elect them on the Committee.

Mrs. Hinds seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman:—The next resolution is to suggest to increase the number of the Committee from 9 to 10. The resolution as put before you in the public Press is as follows:

"That in consequence of the importance of the trade existing between the port and Bombay it is resolved under rule XXIII to increase the number of the Committee from 9 to 10 so as to include a merchant interested in the Bombay trade."

For many years, gentlemen, the constitution of the Committee has been very much as it is at the present moment, but it occurred to us some time ago that it might be possible to get a "gentleman" as member of the Committee who was more directly interested in the import and export trade of India, of Bombay in particular, in view of the immense volume of the trade between this Colony and India. Therefore, we come before you to ask permission to increase our Committee in order to secure the inclusion of a gentleman who is more conversant with the trade of India than those who at present constitute the membership of the Committee.

Mr. A. Forbes moved that the resolution quoted by the chairman be passed.

Mr. C. J. Lafferty seconded.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. J. A. Jupp moved the election of the following new members: Messrs. Soares & Co., Geo. Grimble, William & Co., Netherlands Indies Commercial Bank, and Lowe, and Bingham.

Mr. W. G. Humphreys seconded.

The motion was carried.

The Chairman:—The only other business I have, to bring before you is to ask you to confirm the appointment which your Committee desire to make with regard to Mr. E. A. M. Williams, the secretary of the Chamber. I can only say your Committee have taken a great deal of trouble to go through the large number of applications in order to find a suitable gentleman for the post and we have made a selection, and we confidently recommend the confirmation of the appointment. I would beg to move that the appointment be confirmed.

Mr. A. G. Wood seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I am very much obliged for your presence, and that finishes the business of this meeting.

Stockmen Exported.

Species	From	Agents	To
Kleist	Shanghai, M. & Co ..		Feb. 25
Africano Apicus	Singapore, D. S. & Co ..		Feb. 25
Gregory Voi	Shanghai, H. A. L. ..		Feb. 25
Rhenania	Japan, F. M. Co ..		Feb. 27
Mongolia	Singapore, H. A. L. ..		Feb. 27
Sambia	Singapore, D. & Co, Ltd ..		Feb. 28
Pathan	Singapore, P. & O. Co ..		Feb. 28
Palm	Singapore, D. & Co, Ltd ..		Feb. 29
Sikh	Singapore, M. & Co ..		Mar. 2
Prinz Ludwig	Colombia, M. M. & Co ..		Mar. 2
Polyneesiens	Singapore, N. Y. K. ..		Mar. 2
Kawachi Maru	Japan, P. & A. Co ..		Mar. 3
Arabia	Astoria, M. & Co ..		Mar. 4
Manila	Sydney, M. & Co ..		Mar. 4
Emp. of India	Vancouver, C. P. R. Co ..		Mar. 9
Nicomedia	Astoria, P. & A. Co ..		Mar. 17

DOCK RETURNS.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPoa DOCKS:	
Neil McLeod	At. Kowloon, Black Sorong
Peraia	" "
Cyklop	" "
Germany	" "
Oscar II	" "
Eutio	" "
H. M. S. Kent	Commodore Nanshan
Haitoii	Aberdeen

The Ships Passed Canal.

18th January—Laeret, Kleist, Sachsen, Meiss, Ourane, 21st January—Manila, Monmouthshire, Satsuma, Antilochus, Patroclos, 24th January—Bembo, Pakting, Kanagawa Maru, Palma, Sambo, Pathon, Tokton, Segura, Tambo Maru, Vorke, 25th January—Sif, A. H. Iokanaka, Myrmidon, Nyangs, Benav, 31st January—Armand Bélik, Louther Castle, Sikhs, Ajax, Machao, Andrea, Rickmers, 4th February—Glenurk, Birkenhead, Perse, Diana, Peleus, Bandor, 7th February—Idunmus, Polynesia, Belarvola, Scandia, R. F. Friedrich, Isak Maru, Wakasa Maru, 11th February—Brentry, Memnon, Leyton, Peto, 14th February—Leyton Maru, Salsette, Stenfor, Jason, Nile, Slovenyfys, 18th February—Benvenue, Hudson, Sutria, St. Nicholas, Per, Berme, Helen, Richem, Dorfmund, 21st February—Argentina, Alberg, Glenurk, 24th February—Ariadna, 11th March—Ferndale, Harrowdale, 25th March—Touane, Zitien.	
Arrivals at Home—18th January—Nere, 20th January—Ariadna, Hitachi Maru, Chino, (Ari,) Glenurk, Touane, Canfie, 24th January—P. R. Lutjens, Silesia, (Ges,) 27th January—Syria, 28th January—Metnam, Canton, 31st January—York, Laeret, Sachsen, 4th February—Armand Bélik, Kanagawa Maru, 7th February—Idunmus, 11th February—Sagopia, 13th February—Nyanga, 14th February—P. E. Friedrich, Mackao, Scanda, 15th February—Benavon, Salsette, Wakasa Maru, Pisto, 21st February—Dlomes,	
Barometer, 1018	
Temperature, 61°	
Humidity, 74%	
Wind, N.E.	

HONGKONG AND WHAMPoa DOCK COMPANY LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company was held at the Company's offices, Queen's Building, at noon, to-day, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors and the statement of accounts to the 31st December, 1907. Mr. H. P. White (Chairman of Directors), presided. Others present were: Sir Paul Chater, the Hon. Mr. Henry Keswick, Messrs. G. H. Medhurst, S. Silverstone, A. Fuchs, W. Helms, D. W. Graddock, J. S. Van Buren, G. Friesland (Directors); Robt. Mitchell (Acting Chief Manager), T. I. Rose (Secretary), Messrs. A. V. Apcar, L. Berindague, J. P. Brage, Chau Siu Ki, Choap, Leep Chee, A. Denison, F. Ellis, E. Geor, W. C. Jack, S. H. Michael, E. J. Moses, B. Moi, W. Parlante, A. Rodger, T. Skinner, H. Percy Smith, W. M. Watson, W. H. Wickham, and A. G. Wood.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman:—I beg to propose the adoption of the report and statement of the accounts.

Mr. Wickham, in seconds, said:—In view of the pressure existing during the period under review, I think the shareholders may be congratulated that the accounts are as good as they are and that they will receive a four per cent. dividend. The Chairman alluded to the fact that taking the half-year as a whole the dividend has been fully earned. It is one of the slight inconveniences of half-yearly accounts that the period under review is often too short to show a correct view of the average year. Many of the most successful enterprises, if a sufficiently short period was taken in their history, might be made to show unsatisfactory accounts for that period. It is very satisfactory to hear that the work in hand makes the opening of this year a favourable one, and we hope that the seed sown during the last half-year will bear fruit this year. It is also satisfactory to hear that the work on No. 1 dock is progressing favourably and the funds allowed for that work are sufficient to carry it on for the present year. The chairman has not alluded to a matter that must be in the thoughts of every shareholder, and that is the prospect of competition. Personally, I feel very optimistic about the resources and the abilities of this Dock Company to meet this competition; its advantages are manifold and only have to be stated to be appreciated. You have the guidance of a board of directors which includes the representatives of most of the leading shipping firms and companies in the Colony. You have a capital relatively low compared with the resources of the docks, its workshops and engineering plant, and you also have a zealous and expert staff who are not only conversant with the requirements of local shipping, but are in touch with the requirements of the business. These are some of the advantages you possess. There is another one which I venture to state that never appears on the balance sheet and that is the matter of sentiment. Everyone who has the interest of the Colony at heart looks with pride on the Dock Company. Every Hongkongite, if I may use the term, whether he is a shareholder or not, looks upon its past achievements with pride and looks forward with goodwill and hope for increased prosperity in the future. (Applause.) Gentlemen, with the co-operation of your directors, we trust this distribution of profits will meet with your approval. Some shareholders may question the advisability of paying away more than has been earned during the past half-year; but I would point out that, taking the year as a whole, we have earned more than the dividends recommended. While regretting the poor results of the working for the past six months, it must be remembered that during the first three months of the period under review there was very little doing in the way of docking and repairs and, but for the new work in the shipbuilding department, the work would have been practically closed. As mentioned in the report, most of the profit on the new work uncompleted will come into the current six months. The profit from this class of work is small but helps to cover establishment charges and keeps our men together during slack periods. The work of lengthening the No. 1 dock is progressing as well as can be expected, without interfering with the use of the dock, and seeing there is still \$97,112.92 at the credit of the extension account, your Directors deemed it inexpedient to make further provision for this account just now, the amount in hand being more than sufficient to carry on for the current six months. The caisson of the No. 2 dock has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired at an expense of \$1,749.30, which amount you will observe, appears at the debit of revenue account, and it was unfortunate that we had to provide for such a heavy extraordinary outlay during a lean half-year, but the work of repairing could not be further delayed. During the present half-year, the caisson of No. 111 dock will require a thorough overhaul and repair, but being small in itself the cost will not be so heavy as in the other caissons. Stocks of material on hand are lower by \$6,000 than six months ago, and I take this opportunity for informing you that it will be our endeavour to effect such further reduction as is consistent with the satisfactory working of our business. The taking of stocks has been thoroughly carried out and we have the assurance of the stock-takers that the materials are worth the money they stand at in our book. In the statement of accounts, your Directors considered it advisable to make a slight change from our usual practice in giving detailed cost of improvements and separate items in our earnings; these are now merged in two amounts. If any shareholder wishes for fuller information regarding same, details can be obtained on application to the secretary. Further than this, the statement of accounts does not appear to call for any special comment. Amounts under the headings of sundry creditors and sundry debtors are rather larger than shown in the last statement, but these will be reduced as new work in hand is delivered and paid for. As you are aware, the new tug and salvage steamer *David Gillies* has been successfully launched; she is now being fitted out, and will be finished, so far as toowing is concerned, in about six weeks; the salvage plant, though ordered in the early stages of the work, is not yet to hand. The alterations consequent on the extension of the boiler shop are well advanced, and the most satisfactory feature in same being the erection of a new chimney and the installation of induced draught. This system has only been running two weeks but gives decided efficiency and will certainly result in further economies of working expenses. The tonnage of British and foreign men-of-war docked during the past half-year shows a steady reduction compared with former years, and as to merchant shipping, while there have been fewer steamers docked, the aggregate tonnage remains almost the same as the corresponding six months of last year, showing that the average tonnage has gone up from 2,416 tons of 2,510 tons. The sub-committee of directors have submitted several matters relating to their investigations, which have already been dealt with by the full Board, and the shareholders may rest assured that every effort will continue to be made in the direction of effecting economies. Gentlemen, before closing my remarks, I may say that with the amount of work on hand, our prospects are favourable for the current half-year, and before moving the adoption of the report and statement of the accounts, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions that you may wish to ask.

There were no Questions.

The Chairman:—I beg to propose the adoption of the report and statement of the accounts.

Mr. Wickham, in seconds, said:—In view of the pressure existing during the period under review, I think the shareholders may be congratulated that the accounts are as good as they are and that they will receive a four per cent. dividend. The Chairman alluded to the fact that taking the half-year as a whole the dividend has been fully earned. It is one of the slight inconveniences of half-yearly accounts that the period under review is

